

CLAIMS

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steps of: 1. A method of identifying an integrated circuit, comprising the

programming the integrated circuit with an electronic identification information; and

marking the integrated circuit with an optical identification code which corresponds with the electronic identification information.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
reading the optical identification code; and
associating the optical identification code with the corresponding electronic identification information.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of associating the optical identification code with the corresponding electronic identification information includes the step of accessing a look-up table.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of programming the integrated circuit with an electronic identification information includes the step of programming one of a plurality of programmable links.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of marking the integrated circuit with an optical identification code includes the step of placing an adhesive label on the integrated circuit.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of marking the integrated circuit with an optical identification code includes the step of inscribing a symbol on the integrated circuit.

7. In an integrated circuit which includes a programmable circuit for storing an electronically readable identification code which identifies the integrated circuit, a method of identifying the integrated circuit, comprising the steps of:

marking the integrated circuit with an optical identification code; and
associating the optical identification code with the electronically readable identification code.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of associating the optical identification code with the electronically readable identification code includes the steps of:

reading the electronically readable identification code;
reading the optical identification code; and
correlating the read electronically readable identification code with the read optical identification code.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of correlating the read electronically readable identification code with the read optical identification code includes the step of creating a look-up table.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of associating the optical identification code with the electronically readable identification code includes the step of encoding identical data in the optical and electronically readable identification codes.

11. An integrated circuit, comprising:
a programmable identification circuit operable to store identification data; and
an optical identification mark encoding information corresponding to the identification data.

4 12. The integrated circuit of claim 11 wherein the programmable identification circuit includes a plurality of programmable links.

13. The integrated circuit of claim 11 wherein the optical identification mark encodes information identical to the identification data.

14. An integrated circuit chip, comprising:

a housing;

v an integrated circuit enclosed within the housing and including an identification circuit operable to store identification data; and

an optical mark positioned on an exterior surface of the housing and encoding identification information corresponding to the identification data.

15. The integrated circuit chip of claim 14, further comprising electrical contacts connected to said housing and adapted to provide electrical connection between the integrated circuit and circuitry external to the housing.

0 16. The integrated circuit chip of claim 14 wherein the optical mark is a first optical mark encoding first identification information, and further comprising a second optical mark position on the integrated circuit enclosed within the housing and encoding second identification information corresponding to the identification data.

0 17. The integrated circuit chip of claim 16 wherein the first identification information is identical to the second identification information.

18. The integrated circuit chip of claim 14 wherein the identification information is the same as the identification data.

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